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Schroud Property Site

*Community
Involvement Plan*

August 2020

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APPENDICES

Appendix A – Glossary – Initials – Acronyms: Definition of key words, initials and acronyms (words are in bold throughout the document). Additional Superfund key words are also included in this Appendix.

Appendix B – List of Contacts: List of federal, state, and local agencies and interested groups.

Appendix C – Information Repository, Administrative Record, Websites and Meeting Locations: Places where community members can find more information about the site and possible meeting locations.

Appendix D – Get Involved and Get Support: List of U.S. EPA's community resources and organizations in the Hegewisch Neighborhood.

Appendix E – Community Engagement and the Superfund Process: U.S. EPA's step-by-step process to determine the best way to clean up a contaminated site and opportunities for community involvement.

Appendix F – American Community Survey Demographics Report: U.S. Census Bureau demographic summary of the Hegewisch community.

INTRODUCTION

Describes the purpose of this CIP, presents EPA's community outreach objectives and provides a brief history about the site.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prepared this **Community Involvement Plan** to inform, engage and support the community near the Schroud Property site located in Chicago, Illinois. Our **community involvement** effort is committed to promoting effective and meaningful communication between the public and the Agency. We want to make sure that (1) members of the affected community know and understand when and how they can participate in decision making during the **cleanup** activities at this site and (2) the community's concerns and information needs are considered and addressed as activities at the site progress.

This **CIP** was prepared to support environmental and cleanup activities at and near the Schroud Property site. We used several information sources to develop this plan, including research, discussions with community members and information gathered at community interviews. Because of COVID-19, U.S. EPA scheduled virtual interviews with community members. We conducted 26 virtual and one phone interviews between May 18 and June 9, 2020 with community members including local residents, members of local community groups, media, business organizations and other parties interested in activities and cleanup efforts.

*(Words in **bold** are defined in Appendix A.)*

The CIP is a working document that will evolve as the investigation and cleanup process continue and input is received from the community. It is intended to be flexible, adaptable and used as a guideline for our communication with the community.

This CIP describes U.S. EPA's plan for addressing concerns and keeping residents informed and involved in investigation and cleanup activities at the site. We will use this document as a guide to involve and communicate with residents, businesses and the local governments in the city of Chicago.

If you are interested in submitting comments or have questions or suggestions concerning this CIP, please contact:

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U.S. EPA's community outreach objectives:

- ❖ Assist the public in understanding the decision-making process during the investigation and cleanup and the community's role in that process.
- ❖ Give the public accessible, accurate, timely and understandable information about the project as it moves forward.
- ❖ Ensure adequate time and opportunity for the public to give informed and meaningful input and for that input to be considered.
- ❖ Reflect community concerns, questions and information needs.
- ❖ Respect and fully consider public input throughout the entire process.

Brief Site Overview

The Schroud Property site (see Figure 1 below) – located southwest of the intersection of 126th Street and Avenue O in Chicago, Illinois – was formerly used to store and dump **slag** material from the former Republic/LTV Steel manufacturing operations located about a mile away on the southeast side of Chicago. Slag dumping is estimated to have occurred from 1951 to 1977 and may have continued after purchase of the Republic Steel site by LTV Steel in the early 1980s. The site consists of a large, unmaintained waste disposal area and is

approximately 67 acres in size. Foundry sand and other types of foundry waste may also have been deposited onsite. Elevated levels of inorganic compounds have been found in soil and waste samples collected from the site. The site is private property and public use is considered trespassing. Soil and waste at the property and in nearby Indian Creek are contaminated with **lead**, **chromium** and other inorganic compounds.

Further information about the Schroud Property site can be found on Page 33.



Community Engagement is Essential to the Success of Superfund Cleanups

Ongoing input and involvement by the community is essential to our efforts to provide effective **community engagement**. We have learned that the Agency's decision-making ability is enhanced by actively seeking input and information from the community. Community members need to be involved in all phases of the investigation and cleanup so that the **contamination** is addressed in a way that protects people and the environment – now and in the future.

Residents, business owners and local government officials may be able to provide valuable information about a hazardous site that can help us determine the best way to clean it up. Information can help determine the location of contamination, how people may be exposed to the contamination and perhaps sources of the contamination.

Local residents educated U.S. EPA about their community and told U.S. EPA about their concerns, which are explained in the Community Concerns and Questions section beginning on the next page.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND COMMENTS

Summarizes what community members are concerned about, the questions they asked and what they told U.S. EPA.

What We Heard

We learned about concerns, questions and informational needs related to the Schroud Property by conducting virtual interviews with residents and other interested community members between May 18 and June 9, 2020.

Note to readers: This section is intended to faithfully record and reflect the issues and concerns expressed to U.S. EPA by residents and others interviewed during the community interviews. By necessity, this is a collection and summary of thoughts and observations and, in some cases, opinions. Please be cautioned that the statements contained in this section may or may not be factual and that the opinions and concerns expressed may or may not be valid.

To prepare for the community interviews, U.S. EPA mailed out a postcard to community members on the site mailing list. This list included residents who had allowed access for sampling of their properties and who had attended previous meetings regarding the S.H. Bell Chicago Facility and Watco sites. During the interviews, community members were also asked for recommendations of other people that U.S. EPA should talk to. U.S. EPA reached out to these people and included several in the virtual interviews. U.S. EPA conducted 26 virtual interviews and one additional phone interview. The interviews were conducted in a discussion format and each interviewee was asked questions from a list and follow-up questions were suggested by the discussions. The U.S. EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, or **CIC**; **remedial project manager (RPM)**; a representative from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and a representative from the federal Agency for Toxic Substance Disease Registry (ATSDR) also participated in the interviews. *(Note: the total number of responses does not always add up to the number of interviewees, because based on the discussions, not all questions were asked of everyone, or at times, interviewees preferred not to answer a specific question.)*

Community Concerns

Interviewees expressed several concerns about the Schroud Property site. Health issues and safety and concerns about the accessibility to the site were the most discussed topics. These, among other concerns were discussed and are presented on the next page.

Health

Cancer concerns were the most repeated concerns mentioned to U.S. EPA during the interviews. Interviewees said they believe there is a high rate of all types of cancer in Hegewisch. One resident said they have had many family members die of cancer and another interviewee said there is “a person on every block that has some type of cancer.”

Interviewees also expressed concern about the dust in the area. Many people said that the

dust that gets kicked around the site carries over to the Little League and Babe Ruth baseball fields and that the dust blows around the surrounding area when it is windy. One resident stated that he lives near the site and in six years, his newly painted garage went from a white color to brown from the dust. A few interviewees were concerned about the dust getting into gardens or into nearby homes when windows are open.

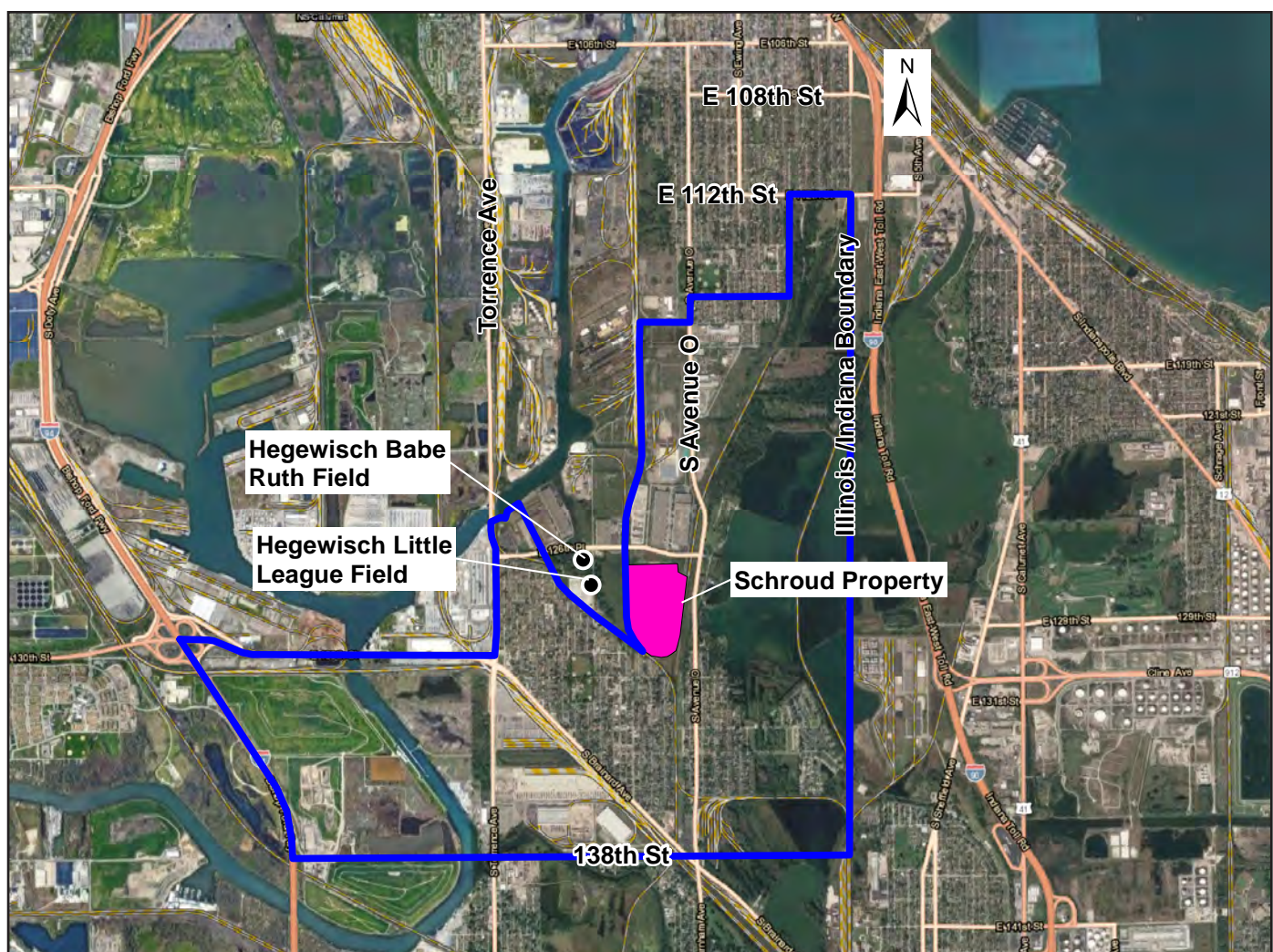


Figure 2. Hegewisch Neighborhood with Baseball Fields and Schroud Property Identified.

Health (*continued*)

Respiratory concerns were also brought up by several community members. Many said they personally have respiratory issues or have family members with respiratory complications. Other interviewees said that their children have asthma and others said COPD was of concern in the community.

Other health concerns brought up during the interviews included premature births, pregnancy complications, auto-immune diseases, hypo-thyroidism, lupus, skin rashes, different levels of autism, scoliosis and multiple sclerosis.

One interviewee was concerned about site **contaminants** entering the body through breathing or unintentional ingestion by people being on the site, and one interviewee expressed an overall concern for people that still access the site and those that live closest to the site.

Safety/Access

Concerns about safety issues and site access were largely raised by interviewees during the interviews. Signage has been put up around the site, but several interviewees have stated that the signage gets torn down, is vandalized, is not large enough and gets covered by plant growth on the property. One interviewee said that the signage looks “pretend-like” and needs to be larger. Another interviewee said that the signage placed at the edge of the property by East 132nd Street and South Green Bay Avenue is misunderstood because no advance notice or explanation was given to residents about the signs and why they were being put up. Several residents were concerned because the signs warned that it was a toxic waste site. One interviewee noted that currently no signage can be seen on the west side of the property when driving by, or on the north side when walking along the property, and that the signage may have been removed or it was not there in the first place. Other concerns raised about signage were that more are needed along the creek because that is an access point for ATV riders. Interviewees also said that more warning signs with simple language are needed.



ATV riders accessing the Schroud Property.

There are several access points where people can still get onto the site, whether driving, walking or on ATVs. Cement barriers have been put up around the site, but several interviewees mentioned that people either go around the barriers on ATVs or dirt bikes, or people in Jeep vehicles tie chains to the barricades and move the barriers.

Interviewees also talked about other ways people access the site, including:

- Parking along Green Bay Avenue and bringing ATVs on trailers.
- Riding ATVs through the low-lying area of Indian Creek including placing wooden pallets down to get across the creek and onto the site. The wooden pallets then block the creek and dead fish have been reported in the area.
- Riding ATVs down the grassy path that runs along the power lines next to the property.
- Riding ATVs from the south suburbs and accessing the property via open areas along the property.



ATV tracks found on the site.

Many interviewees said they have seen people on the site in the past, and some have recently seen people in Jeeps, on dirt bikes and on ATVs riding around the property. A couple of interviewees have recently seen children and teenagers playing on the site, and one interviewee was concerned that her own

teenage children would go on the site. Other interviewees have also mentioned seeing barbeques and picnics being held on the site.

In summer 2019, a few interviewees noticed large black smoke coming from the site and it looked like tires were being burnt, but it was a group of people having a large bonfire. The police and fire department were called, and the group was broken up.

Interviewees also expressed concern that there's not enough being done to prevent people from accessing the site and not all entrances are blocked off. Some interviewees stated there is not enough security and the site is not patrolled often by the police. It was suggested that U.S. EPA communicate with the local police department to make them aware of the situation and the site hazards so that the area could be patrolled more often. Interviewees also suggested that fencing be put around the property, especially on the west and south sides of the property and that caution tape should be put up and more barriers installed to help prevent access to the site.

One interviewee said that people that access the site do not understand or know about the site hazards and how dangerous it is. One resident suggested that U.S. EPA contact the local fire department and provide them with information about site hazards so that they are informed in case they respond to a call on the property.

Air, Water and Soil Quality

Several interviewees stated they are concerned about air quality and overall pollution in the community. One interviewee said there are air monitors on the roof of George Washington High School. Another interviewee spoke about train cars full of petcoke that are allowed to sit and wait for switches on the tracks near the site and is concerned about the petcoke blowing into the neighborhoods.



View of Indian Creek with slag piles on the site in the background.

Many were also concerned about the water quality of Indian Creek and Wolf Lake and whether site contaminants were leaking into the waterways. They noted that many residents have filed complaints with the city of Chicago about the quality and color of Indian Creek. A couple interviewees mentioned that Indian Creek runs through the site and suggested that U.S. EPA look at the flow of Indian Creek to ensure it flows back into Calumet River and not back into Wolf Lake, especially when it overflows due to high rainfall. A couple of the interviewees mentioned that material from the slag piles falls into Indian Creek. One interviewee stated that in 2019, there was black tar reportedly leaking into the creek. Another interviewee

expressed concern about the possibility of site contaminants leaching into nearby homes through water leakage in basements.

Many people expressed concern about soil contamination in the neighborhood. Some asked if it was safe to garden and plant in the ground, while others mentioned that they and other Hegewisch residents use pots or raised garden beds. One interviewee mentioned that they have personally seen slag under the dirt on the Babe Ruth baseball field.

Odors

A few interviewees expressed concerns about strong odors present in the neighborhood. They have noticed heavy gas odors, especially in the morning and evening or when it is windy. They have also smelled paint odors during the week that smell stronger on the west side of the neighborhood. These interviewees have said they do not know if the smells are connected to the Schroud Property because there is a heavy industrial presence in the area, but one community member has sent complaints to the city of Chicago about the strong odors.

Other concerns raised during the interviews included:

- Number of slag piles present on the site.
- Possibility of bringing site contaminants home while bike riding through Big Marsh Park.
- The unknown of what is present on the site.
- Number of phragmites and invasive species overgrowing along the property.
- Nothing grows on the site.
- Fly dumping onsite.
- Property values now that Schroud Property is considered a **Superfund** site.

Past and Present Use of the Site
U.S. EPA asked community members for any information they may have about the past and present use of the site. Because most of the interviewees are long-term residents of Hegewisch they were able to provide an abundance of information about past and current use of the site, either from personal experience, eyewitness accounts or through word of mouth.

The Schroud Property, known to many long-term residents as the “Coal Hills,” has been used as an unofficial playground and recreational area for many years. Several interviewees played on the site as children including playing paintball, riding bicycles, riding dirt bikes, and sledding on the slag piles during winter. An interviewee mentioned that the slag piles could create a sort of quicksand effect that your feet could sometimes get sucked into.



Slag piles and other waste on Schroud property.



Wolf Lake is a popular recreational area.

Many community members also talked about other activities that occurred on and around the property including, swimming in Indian Creek and Wolf Lake, duck hunting, fishing in Indian Creek and Wolf Lake, shooting practice and teenage parties. One interviewee mentioned their friends' parents used to take daily walks on the site with their dog. Fishing is still active in both waterways, but the fishing that still occurs in Indian Creek is salmon spearing. U.S. EPA asked one interviewee, who still fishes in Wolf Lake and is involved with the Wolf Lake Rod and Gun Club, if they know of people that eat the fish from Wolf Lake. The interviewee replied that people do eat the fish and are not concerned about the water because it flows from Wolf Lake, into Indian Creek, and out into the Calumet River, so they are not concerned with contamination flowing back into the lake.

Some of the interviewees spoke of the wildlife and marshy landscape that encompassed the area and how it used to be pristine swampland. One interviewee said there are still parts of the site that have an abundance of marshy growth that makes it hard to see the site.

A life-long resident of Hegewisch said he used to ride a trolley system that ran through the west portion of the Schroud property when it was mainly wetlands.



Trolley car system running through former wetlands in Hegewisch, just south of 126th Street.

A couple of the interviewees mentioned a sports complex that was proposed to be built on the Schroud Property site in the 1980s. However, once it was found that the property was contaminated, the plans fell through. One interviewee mentioned that another company wanted to purchase the property and build warehouse space. When the property was owned by Republic Steel, one interviewee talked about being at Wolf Lake and seeing the company dumping material on the site, creating the slag piles. Another interviewee noted seeing dump trucks entering the site in the 1990s and picking up the slag that was used as fill for roadways being built in the area.

In more recent years, interviewees talked about seeing trash, construction materials and even mattresses being dumped on the site, and they worry about what else is being dumped there illegally. About five years ago, one interviewee noted that they

saw tents set up on the site and people would hang out at the site all day. Another interviewee saw graffiti tagged on the hills. One interviewee, who previously worked for the current neighborhood Alderwoman, told U.S. EPA that many of the ATV riders that frequent the site are not from the area and come from the Village of Burnham, Calumet City and the city of Hammond. They also noted that years ago, there was a Facebook page dedicated to ATV riding on the site where ATV and dirt bike riders could communicate about riding on the site and plan gatherings. Another interviewee mentioned that in the past six months the portion of the site facing 126th Street (just west of Avenue O) was landscaped and has the appeal of being a picnic area or a park to people that aren't aware of the site dangers.



Construction and other debris on the Schroud Property site.

Neighborhood History

U.S. EPA learned that some of the community members they spoke with have lived in the area for a long time as some of their family member did before them. One interviewee spoke about their family's long history working in the steel mills. Their father worked for U.S. Steel for 40 years and had lung problems. The interviewee also worked in different departments of U.S. Steel for many years. They talked about how the steel dust was everywhere in the air and the sky looked gray from all the pollution caused by the steel mills. This interviewee also mentioned that many years ago, there were massive tar pits located near Brandon Avenue, just north of the railroad tracks and just south of the Schroud Property site, and children's shoes could be seen stuck on the surface of the tar pits regularly. Another interviewee also worked at U.S. Steel for about 10 years.

One interviewee noted that many families in the community are generational, and they personally are from a family of six generations. The resident's grandmother brought their mother to the U.S. from Mexico in the early 1900s. They settled in Wyoming first and later moved to south Chicago. Their grandmother opened one of the first Mexican restaurants in south Chicago.



Site Reuse

Interviewees were asked what they would like to see the site used for in the future once cleanup is complete. The most common responses and the number of times the responses were mentioned are displayed in the table below.

Reuse Ideas	Number of Respondents
Park Area/Public Service	10
Nature Resource	7
Office/Light Manufacturing	4
Bike Trail	3
Solar Farm	3
Playground	2
Connection to Wolf Lake	2
Left Alone	2
ATV/Dirt Bike Controlled Use	2
Recreation/Sports Complex	2

Other ideas for site reuse that interviewees mentioned included:

- Tennis courts
- Casino
- Housing development
- Community garden
- Cultural center
- Museum dedicated to steel workers and labor force of Hegewisch
- Sledding in the winter months
- Sports fields
- Facilities for school sports, sports field and facility for Girls' softball
- Opportunity for job creation

Additional comments that interviewees made about future reuse is that first and foremost, the site needs to be cleaned up, that site reuse will depend on the level of cleanup and that whoever owns it and decides on reuse has to make the most of all the open space. Other comments were to avoid using the space for housing and industrial use and that a buffer or barrier needs to be created for the residents located next to the site to minimize any disturbances. One interviewee would like to see an information kiosk that talks about the history of the area. Another interviewee does not want the site accessible to people and does not believe the site can be of any beneficial use to the community.

Communication

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in communicating virtually, U.S. EPA asked interviewees about their access to the internet. All but one interviewee had access to the internet. One interviewee did have access to the internet but was not very good at using it. A few interviewees also commented that Hegewisch has many elderly residents who might not use the internet often or have access to it. There is also a low-income portion of the community that may not be able to afford internet connection.

U.S. EPA wanted to know where community members get information regarding the site. Most interviewees received the postcard announcing the virtual community interviews. They have also received site information by Google searching, past news articles about the site and from word-of-mouth or relatives in the community. Interviewees also followed information when Illinois EPA was managing the site. Some community meetings were held with Illinois EPA and Alderwoman Garza's office.

Some interviewees knew about the site because they played on it as children. The community organization Southeast Environmental Task Force was also an information source about the site.

When U.S. EPA asked how they would like to receive updates and be kept informed about the site, interviewees said mail and e-mail were the best methods.

U.S. EPA also asked interviewees for their best sources of general information and news. Several newspapers, television and radio stations were cited. Interviewees also mentioned several Facebook pages and other online sources for information. A list of all these resources can be found in Appendix D. Other ways that community members get information is by word of mouth, community events, U.S. EPA mailings, phone calls, and past Illinois EPA site information.



Most of the interviewees were aware of U.S. EPA's website for the Schroud Property site. One interviewee was not aware of the website until receiving a postcard with the site profile page address. Half of those that were aware said they have been on the website and that it was easy to navigate. A number suggested improving the page by adding more aerial images, maps and site photographs. One interviewee that did see the map found it useful. Another interviewee saw the aerial view of the site, but said the page took quite a while to load. Another suggestion was to add the site background to the home page.

Environmental Topics

Laws & Regulations

About EPA

Superfund Site:

[Superfund Home](#)

[This Site's Home Page](#)

[Site Contacts](#)

[Cleanup Activities](#)

[Health & Environment](#)

[Stay Updated, Get Involved](#)

[Redevelopment](#)

[Site Documents & Data](#)

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Photos, Videos & Audio

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Photos

Schroud Property Site

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An aerial photograph showing the Schroud Site, which is outlined in yellow. The site is situated in an urban area of Chicago, Illinois. To the west of the site is Indian Creek, and to the south is Hyde Lake Wetlands. Several streets are labeled: E 126th St at the top, followed by S. Calumet Ave running vertically along the left side. Horizontal streets shown include E 129th St, E 130th St, and E 131st St. Another vertical street, S. Duane Ave, is partially visible. To the east of the site is another wetland area, and further east is Wolf Lake. A north arrow is located in the upper right corner, and a scale bar indicating distances from 0 to 1,000 feet is in the lower right corner.

Information Repository

More than half of the interviewees said they would not go to the Hegewisch Branch of the Chicago Public Library to review site documents. One person said they would not go to the library because the library was not organized. Interviewees that said they would go to the library enjoy visiting that branch and some go often. One interviewee was chairman of the local library committee when the Hegewisch Branch opened, and another resident was part of a group that worked to get the library built in the neighborhood.



Hegewisch Branch, Chicago Public Library.

Meetings

Most interviewees have attended community meetings in the past and would continue in the future. One interviewee stated that the meeting would have to be held in a safe environment, health-wise, in order for them to attend. Those that would attend future meetings for the site said that meetings would have to occur in the evening, no earlier than 6:00 pm. Many residents work the graveyard shift and would not be able to attend daytime meetings. More than a third of the interviewees have flexible schedules and can meet at any time with advance notice. Interviewees said that Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays are the best days for meetings.



U.S. EPA asked interviewees where the best locations would be to hold meetings and community members suggested several locations to hold meetings. See Appendix C for a list of locations.

What is special about your community?

When asked what was special about their community, people said:

- Tight Community (neighbors look out for each other)
- Place I grew up
- Peaceful area
- Proud people
- A place where people settle down and live long-term
- Access to greenspace and the open areas
- Affordable
- Close to highways and the City
- Close to Indiana and Midway airport
- Diverse
- Ease of public transportation (South Shore Metra line)
- Great area for families
- Large number of city employees that live there
- Low crime
- Mann Park
- Not fast paced for a Chicago neighborhood
- Not Chicagoans; "Hegewicshians"
- Passionate community that works together to stay informed and engaged
- Proximity to waterways (Wolf Lake and Lake Michigan)
- So much history and culture
- The small business shops
- Wonderful neighbors
- Biking trails
- So many things to do within walking distance
- Being able to hunt ducks, fish and ride your bike right in the community
- Overall geography of the area being next to beautiful parks, dunes, prairies and wetlands.
- It's nice being "away" from the city.

"I could not imagine raising my family anywhere else."
-Hegewisch resident

"There's no place like Hegewisch."
-Hegewisch resident

Engaging the Community

U.S. EPA asked interviewees for suggestions on how to engage other community members, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of their suggestions are listed below.

- There are a lot of elderly people in community; perhaps reach out to children to help the elders/parents understand what is going on, such as through Facebook.
- Post signs and flyers at Mann Park, the baseball fields and in downtown Hegewisch. There is a glass bulletin board in downtown Hegewisch where information can be posted.
- Reach out to Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. They can send an e-mail blast to church members.
- Flyers can be handed out at the Senior Center, known as the Senior Suites of Hegewisch.
- The *Hegewisch Times* is delivered to every home in the area and would be a great way to post information about the site if you want the community to see it.
- The yearly Hegewisch Fest might be a good place to pass out information and speak with the community.
- Zoom or other virtual meetings may be a better way to connect with residents. It's easier for people to attend and still get information without rushing to a community meeting.
- More community education about the site and its hazards are needed.
- U.S. EPA needs to get into the schools and educate children about the site.
- Make materials available to teachers so they can educate their students about the site hazards.
- Speak with the students in the International Baccalaureate program at George Washington High School.
- Post flyers at the banks, grocery stores and other local areas in the community.
- Post a link or updates in the Alderwoman's newsletters.

Questions Interviewees Asked

1. Is air monitoring being done at the site?
2. Is there an estimate of how long it will take for the site to be reviewed?
3. What are the big mounds on the site made of?
4. What is going to happen with Indian Creek running through the property?
5. What is the end goal for the Schroud Property site?
6. What is the reach for sending communication? Many trespassers are not from the neighborhood.
7. Is slag still being dumped there?
8. Why do people fish in Wolf Lake but not the Calumet River?
9. Can meetings and communications be available in both English and Spanish?
10. How long is the community engagement process going on for?
11. Once cleanup is complete, who will own the property and decide what it gets used for?
12. How far does the site extend beyond the railroad tracks, or does it only go up to the railroad tracks?
13. When will the community start seeing activity on the site?
14. What does it mean when a site is deemed a Superfund site?
15. How long will it take before anything is done on the property?
16. What does living near the site mean for me? How hazardous is the site?
17. Do I have to worry about my garden and outdoor furniture?
18. In the interim, what can the community do to stay safe from the site?
19. How long will the process take? Is there a timeline?
20. Who has jurisdiction over Indian Creek?
21. Will statistics for cancers and respiratory issues for the area be evaluated?
22. How bad is the contamination on the site?
23. Is Hyde Lake Wetlands still safe to go?



Comments Interviewees Shared

During the community interviews, U.S. EPA asked if there was anything else the community members would like to share about either the site or the Agency's involvement with the local community. The responses provided are listed below.

1. I'm happy that EPA is getting involved.
2. Just knowing that EPA is involved is very encouraging.
3. Keep the community informed throughout the whole process and keep ongoing communication.
4. Make sure people are kept safe before remediation begins so they stay off the site.
5. It would be great if there is any way to get local labor associations involved when it comes time for cleanup.
6. Hegewisch residents have dealt with a lot of environmental issues for years, and most residents have not benefited from that for years.
7. Many residents have become tolerant of environmental issues in the area.
8. I'm worried about the property going up right next to the site on 126th Street. It's a large building. Is that property contaminated also? Were the workers at risk of environmental dangers?
9. It's finally good news for the neighborhood that EPA is working on a cleanup plan for the site.
10. I don't think enough people know about the site or the situation and the dangers it poses.
11. Police and fire departments need to be kept informed and need to know/understand what the site hazards are, especially if they need to respond to calls there.
12. Thank you to EPA for taking the time to be involved in the community.
13. Many years have passed and the environmental issues in the community remain. It is worrisome that this process for environmental cleanup is going on for so long.
14. Any companies that aren't environmentally friendly should not be allowed to set up business in the same vicinity as a Superfund site.
15. The community is frustrated with the companies that were allowed to dump on the site and the new companies that come in and still continue to dump.
16. If the site is excavated, it needs to go down far enough to where contaminants could have gone into Indian Creek or Wolf Lake. The sampling needs to go down 50-100 feet.
17. Every Hegewisch resident should be on the mailing list.
18. I applaud EPA for trying to clean up the site.
19. Unless you fence the area, people are not going to stop going on the site. More signage could be added on the east side of the property, but I'm sure if it will help.
20. Schroud did not put the slag on the property, he purchased the property as-is.

Community Involvement Goals and Activities

Highlights U.S. EPA's goals, activities and timeline to keep community members and local officials informed and involved.

“Community involvement is the process of engaging in dialogue and collaboration with community members. The goal of Superfund community involvement is to advocate and strengthen early and meaningful community participation during Superfund cleanups.”

When establishing the objectives for a site-specific community involvement program, we consider several factors, including federal requirements and U.S. EPA policy that assess the nature and extent of known or perceived site contaminants and known community concerns and requests.

To be effective, our community involvement program is designed to meet the community's need to know, give information in a timely manner and accommodate the community's interests and its willingness to participate in decision-making processes. We must also share information in language the public can understand.

U.S. EPA has or will put in place the activities described on the following pages to meaningfully and actively engage the community in decisions regarding the investigation and cleanup of the Schroud Property site. The following plan is intended as opportunities for communication between the community and U.S. EPA occur and to address key concerns and questions raised during the discussions and virtual community interviews.

To meet the needs of the community and to respond to information obtained during discussions and virtual community interviews conducted with residents and other community members in May and June 2020 and to meet federal requirements, we have established the following objectives for our community involvement efforts:

- Enlist the support, coordination and involvement of the city of Chicago officials and community leaders.
- Monitor community interest in the site and respond accordingly.
- Keep the community well informed of ongoing and planned site activities.
- Explain technical site activities and findings in an understandable format for community members.
- Get public input on key decisions.
- Change planned activities, where warranted, based on community input.
- Update U.S. EPA's website regularly and provide useful information on it for the community.
- Update the city of Chicago officials on a periodic basis even if no activities are occurring at the site.
- Hold **public meetings**, when necessary, within the community to give all residents an opportunity to attend.

Specific Community Involvement Activities

To meet federal requirements and to address community concerns and questions described in the Community Concerns section, U.S. EPA has conducted (or will conduct) the activities described below. Through these activities, it is our goal to inform, involve and engage the community during site cleanup decisions and efforts. As the needs of the community change, we will modify the community involvement strategies to address them.

- **Maintain point of contact.**
Heriberto León is the primary liaison between U.S. EPA and the city of Chicago's Hegewisch community. Mr. León serves as the point of contact for community members and fields general questions about the site. For technical site issues, he coordinates with U.S. EPA's remedial project manager, or RPM, for the site, Lauren Bumba.
- **Establish a toll-free number for residents to ask questions and receive information.** Mr. León and Ms. Bumba are located in the Chicago office and can be reached using the toll-free number listed in the box, right. Ask for them by name or use the telephone extensions. Residents can call these numbers as questions or concerns arise instead of waiting for a public meeting or to receive written information.

U.S. EPA has designated the following people as primary site contacts for local residents:

Heriberto León

Community Involvement Coordinator
312-886-6163 (Ext. 66163)
leon.heriberto@epa.gov

Lauren Bumba

Remedial Project Manager
312-886-4844 (Ext. 64844)
bumba.lauren@epa.gov

We will include current contact information for the project staff on all written and electronic information and will notify the community of any contact information changes.

They can also be reached weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. toll-free at 800-621-8431.

We will provide the toll-free number periodically in local newspaper advertisements and include the toll-free number in all fact sheets and all of our other communications with the public.

- **Maintain communication with local officials, agencies and community members.** We will maintain communication with the local officials throughout the investigation and cleanup process. We also interviewed community residents and will continue to update residents on the progress at the site.
- **Share site information on the Internet.** We will provide information on activities and post communications on the following U.S. EPA website. The website will be updated as events occur.

www.epa.gov/superfund/schroud-property

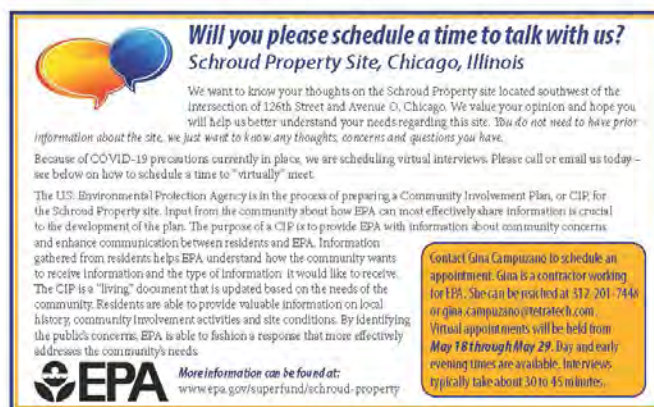
- **Update and maintain the site mailing list.** We have established a mailing list of local community members, organizations, businesses and officials for the site. This list will be used for mailing fact sheets, site updates, invitations to public meetings and events and other site-related information mailed to the community. We will update the list regularly to reflect address changes and changes in elected officials and to add new people interested in site activities.

We use the site mailing list to distribute written information such as fact sheets and meeting notifications. This is a way to ensure that those that do not have access to the Internet or other information sources still have a way to receive information directly about the site and are notified about important meetings. The mailing list is for U.S. EPA use only and is not shared with outside entities. If a community member is interested in being placed on the mailing list, they can use the *“Sign up for this Superfund site’s mailing list”* link on the site profile webpage or they can contact Heriberto León.

We have also established an e-mail distribution list based on the virtual interviews and requests from community members. Please contact Mr. León to be added to this list.

- **Prepare and distribute fact sheets and site updates.** We will prepare and distribute fact sheets, letters and site updates to those on the site mailing and e-mail lists summarizing current information about the site and describing upcoming activities. These documents are written in non-technical language and are typically published to coincide with important site activities. U.S. EPA will provide community outreach materials in Spanish as needed or requested.

We use these types of documents to give the community detailed information in a relatively quick, simple and easy-to-understand manner. In addition to being shared with individuals on the site mailing list, we also place the fact sheets and site updates in the **information repository** and post them on U.S. EPA’s website: www.epa.gov/superfund/schroud-property.



Will you please schedule a time to talk with us?
Schroud Property Site, Chicago, Illinois

We want to know your thoughts on the Schroud Property site located southwest of the intersection of 126th Street and Avenue O, Chicago. We value your opinion and hope you will help us better understand your needs regarding this site. You do not need to have prior information about the site, we just want to know any thoughts, concerns and questions you have.

Because of COVID-19 precautions currently in place, we are scheduling virtual interviews. Please call or email us today – see below on how to schedule a time to “virtually” meet.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is in the process of preparing a Community Involvement Plan, or CIP, for the Schroud Property site. Input from the community about how EPA can most effectively share information is crucial to the development of the plan. The purpose of a CIP is to provide EPA with information about community concerns and enhance communication between residents and EPA. Information gathered from residents helps EPA understand how the community wants to receive information and the type of information it would like to receive. The CIP is a “living” document that is updated based on the needs of the community. Residents are able to provide valuable information on local history, community involvement activities and site conditions. By identifying the public’s concerns, EPA is able to fashion a response that more effectively addresses the community’s needs.

More information can be found at:
www.epa.gov/superfund/schroud-property

Contact Gina Campuzano to schedule an appointment. Gina is a contractor working for EPA. She can be reached at 312.201.7444 or gina.campuzano@epa.gov. Virtual appointments will be held from **May 18 through May 29, 2020**. Day and early evening times are available. Interviews typically take about 30 to 45 minutes.

- **Establish and maintain a site-specific information repository.**

We have set up a local information repository for the site at the following location:

**Hegewisch Branch,
Chicago Public Library**
3048 E. 130th St.
Chicago, IL 60633

The repository is a collection of site information available to the public for reading and photocopying. Documents include fact sheets, technical reports, the CIP, general Superfund information and other documents. U.S. EPA adds new documents about the site as the documents become available. Information repositories give residents local access to site information in forms that can be easily read and photocopied for future use. An online information repository is also available on the site's web page www.epa.gov/superfund/schroud-property to access information electronically.

- **Establish and maintain the administrative record.** A copy of the **administrative record** for the site can be found at the library listed above and at the U.S. EPA Region 5 Superfund Records Center in Chicago (*see Appendix C*). We will update the administrative record as necessary. The administrative record gives residents a paper trail of all documents U.S. EPA relied on, or considered, to reach decisions about the site cleanup.

- **Conduct public meetings, hearings and information sessions.** A public meeting is an opportunity for U.S. EPA to present specific information and a proposed course of action. U.S. EPA staff is available to share information and answer questions. A public meeting is not a formal public hearing where testimony is received. Instead, it might be a meeting to exchange information or comments. In addition, we may hold an informal open-house style meeting, called an availability session, where residents can meet U.S. EPA experts one-on-one to discuss the activities at the site. Either type of meeting allows community members an opportunity to express their concerns and ask questions of the Agency, state or local government officials. Public meetings or availability sessions can be held at various times throughout the investigation and cleanup process. We typically schedule a meeting when there are technical milestones or when the community has expressed an interest in having a meeting.

A public hearing is a formal meeting where we hear the public's views and concerns about a U.S. EPA action or proposal. There are specific regulations about when the Agency is required to consider such comments when evaluating its actions. Public hearings are recorded by a professional transcriber and become part of the administrative record. The comments are also posted on the Web.

U.S. EPA will consider conducting additional meetings at different times and different locations throughout the community to give all residents an opportunity to attend as needed.

- **Provide additional tools for communities as needed.** There are additional programs that can be helpful to the community if there is a need for them. Two of these programs are the **Technical Assistance Services for Communities**, or **TASC**, and the **Technical Assistance Grant**, or **TAG**. The TASC program supplies communities with technical help so they can better understand the science, regulations and policies of environmental issues and U.S. EPA actions. TAGs provide money for activities that help communities participate in decision-making at eligible Superfund sites.
- **Write and distribute news releases and public notices.** We will prepare and release announcements to the local newspaper such as the *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times* or *Hegewisch Times* to share information about events such as significant site investigation findings, **public comment periods**, public meetings and completion of major milestones such as the proposal of a cleanup plan. We will also provide this information to Alderwoman Susan Sadlowski Garza for posting on her website as well as publishing in any community newsletters.
- **Evaluate community involvement and outreach efforts and make adjustments as warranted.** This CIP was designed to consider site- and community-specific factors as well as to comply with federal requirements. This CIP summarizes community concerns gathered during discussions and interviews with local residents and other community members. Based on that information, U.S. EPA has developed the objectives of the community involvement program for the site and some specific activities to address these concerns. We recognize that changes in areas such as community perceptions, information needs and population demographics can occur over time and that such changes may necessitate a revised approach to conducting community involvement activities. For this reason, as well as to determine whether the activities in this revised plan are achieving their intended objectives, we will conduct periodic reviews to determine whether additional activities are warranted or whether changes to the activities outlined in this plan are necessary. As the needs of the community change, we will modify the community involvement strategies to address them in a CIP revision.

News releases allow us to reach large audiences quickly. We will also post the news releases on the website, www.epa.gov/superfund/schroud-property.





















U.S. EPA will issue news releases and public notices as site activities progress. We will also put copies of the news releases and public notices in the site information repository.

The following page presents the status of the activities above.

Community Involvement Efforts

The graphic below shows the types of community involvement activities U.S. EPA organizes at a site and how they follow along with the investigation and cleanup process.

Community Involvement Activities

	Maintain point of contact: Heriberto León 312-886-6163 leon.heriberto@epa.gov Lauren Bumba 312-886-4844 bumba.lauren@epa.gov	Completed	
	Establish toll-free number 800-621-8431 Ext. 66163 (Heriberto León) Ext. 64844 (Lauren Bumba)	Completed	
	Develop a community involvement plan	Update as needed	
	Maintain communication with local officials, agencies and community residents	Ongoing as needed	
	Share site information on the Internet www.epa.gov/superfund/schroud-property	Update as needed	
	Update and maintain site mailing lists	Update as needed	
	Establish and maintain site-specific information repository and administrative record	Update as needed	
	Conduct public meetings, hearings and information sessions	Ongoing as needed	
	Write and distribute news release and public notices	Ongoing as needed	
	Evaluate community involvement and outreach efforts and adjust as warranted	Periodically throughout the process	

THE COMMUNITY

Provides a brief summary of the composition and history of the Hegewisch Neighborhood.

Community Profile

Chicago Hegewisch Neighborhood

The city of Chicago, located in Cook County, Illinois, is divided into 77 official community areas. The Hegewisch Neighborhood, located on the city's far south side, is bordered by the South Deering and Riverdale neighborhoods to the west, the East Side neighborhood to the north, the village of Burnham to the south and the city of Hammond, Indiana to the east. The neighborhood encompasses an area of 4.8 square miles (*see map to the right*).

The city of Chicago was incorporated in 1837, and at this time, the Hegewisch neighborhood was incorporated as part of Hyde Park Township. It wasn't until 1889 that the neighborhood was annexed into the city. From the early to mid-1800s, the area was originally home to the Potawatomi Native American community, who left the area in the mid-1840s (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hegewisch,_Chicago).

In 1883, U.S. Rolling Stock Company (USRS Co.) president, Adolph Hegewisch, founded the Hegewisch area and proposed to build a company town similar to what George Pullman had done for his railroad car company. The goal of USRS Co. was to build railroad cars and at the time, the company was located several miles from the Hegewisch area in what is now Blue Island. Hegewisch purchased 100 acres of land in the area of 135th and Brandon Streets and planned to use it as a rail yard. Investors purchased an additional 1,500 acres of land north of the company site for worker housing.



Map outlines the Hegewisch Neighborhood within the city of Chicago.



Signage displayed in the Hegewisch neighborhood.

A small business center was created around what is now 133rd Street and Baltimore Avenue and still exists today. Hegewisch also planned to build two canals; one to shorten the Calumet River and one to connect Wolf Lake with Lake Michigan. His plans never materialized though, due to a lack of money. A few years after the area was annexed by the city of Chicago, Adolph Hegewisch passed away and his company was sold to the Presse Steel Car Company. (Source: https://www.hegewisch.net/short_history.html).



View of Baltimore Avenue, Hegewisch's main business hub.

In the early 1900s, the Hegewisch area was home to a several steel mills, attracting many European immigrants to the area for work. The large number of workers prompted the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, now the United Steelworkers of America, to become active in the area in the 1930s. Carnegie-Illinois Steel Company ratified the union and workers received vacation time, better pay and fewer working hours. Smaller steel companies did not follow along, which led to the union's decision to call a strike against those smaller companies. On Memorial Day, 1937, steel workers tried to march on Republic Steel and were shot at by off-duty Chicago police officers. Ten workers died and hundreds were injured as a result.

The steel industry began its decline in the 1970s, which led to fewer employment opportunities. In 1980, Wisconsin Steel closed their South Deering mill, which caused a sharp increase in unemployment in the area. Numerous development projects were proposed to revive Hegewisch's economy. One of these developments was the Lake Calumet Airport, proposed by the city of Chicago in 1990. Unfortunately, the construction of an airport would have led to the destruction of the Hegewisch neighborhood, including some portions of Calumet City and the village of Burnham. It was opposed by not only Hegewisch residents, but also Illinois State Senator James "Pate" Phillips, who also happened to be the Senate President at the time. Due to the opposition and concerns about the cost of building an airport, the proposal was shut down. Though many industries have left the area, Hegewisch has maintained a stable community with middle and working-class families (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hegewisch,_Chicago).



Plaque at 117th Street and Avenue O remembering the workers that died in the Memorial Day Massacre in 1937.

The Hegewisch neighborhood is comprised of three distinct areas -- Arizona, Avalon Trails and Old Hegewisch. Old Hegewisch, considered the oldest part of the neighborhood, makes up the area North of 138th Street, South of 130th Street, East of Torrence Avenue and West of Avenue O. It was the area where Adolph Hegewisch originally settled. Arizona makes up the area East of Avenue O and North of 138th Street. It is also commonly referred to as "the Avenues" and got that name from the city's street-naming convention of alphabetically naming streets. The Arizona area received its name because the original land soil has a sandy texture and native cactus are present in the area. The third area, Avalon Trails, is comprised of the areas North of 130th Street, East of Torrence Avenue and West of Baltimore Avenue. It is the newest of the three areas, built in the 1960s. It is built on wetland area where original Hegewisch settlers hunted fish and small animals (Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hegewisch,_Chicago; https://www.hegewisch.net/short_history.html).

Despite the neighborhood makeup, Hegewisch has more undeveloped land than any area in the city of Chicago. This includes 475 acres of open space and 536 acres of vacant space, including wetlands and a large section of train tracks. Notable nature areas in the neighborhood include Mann Park, Powderhorn Prairie Marsh Nature Reserve and Wolf Lake, which is part of the William W. Powers State Recreation Area. Hegewisch also has the only trailer park in the city of Chicago, known as Harbor Point Estates. Located East of Avenue F, the trailer park contains 190 manufactured homes and 50 recreational vehicles (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hegewisch,_Chicago).

Governmental structure

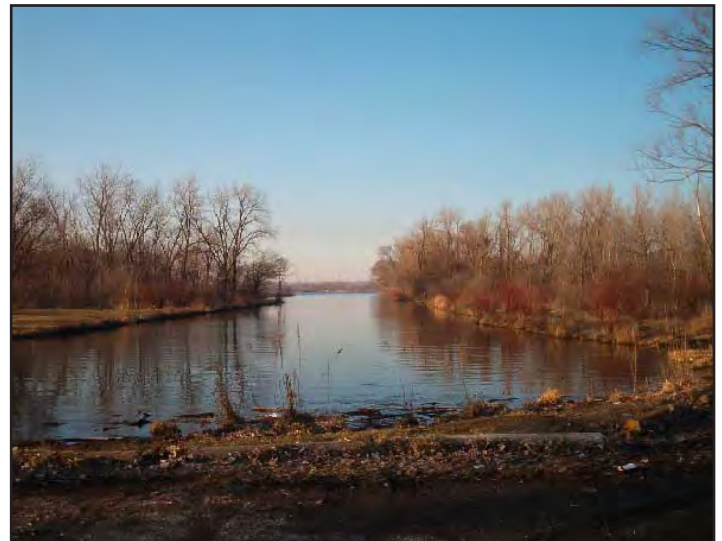
The city of Chicago has a mayor council form of government. The City Council is made up of 50 aldermen, one representing each of Chicago's 50 wards. Hegewisch is part of Chicago's 10th Ward and Susan Sadlowski Garza is the 10th Ward Alderwoman. The mayor and aldermen are elected and serve four-year terms. The 4th District Chicago Police Department is located at 2255 E. 103rd Street. The two Chicago Fire Department stations located at 13359 S. Burley Avenue and 11641 S. Avenue O serve the Hegewisch neighborhood.

10th Ward Alderwoman

Susan Sadlowski Garza

773-768-8138

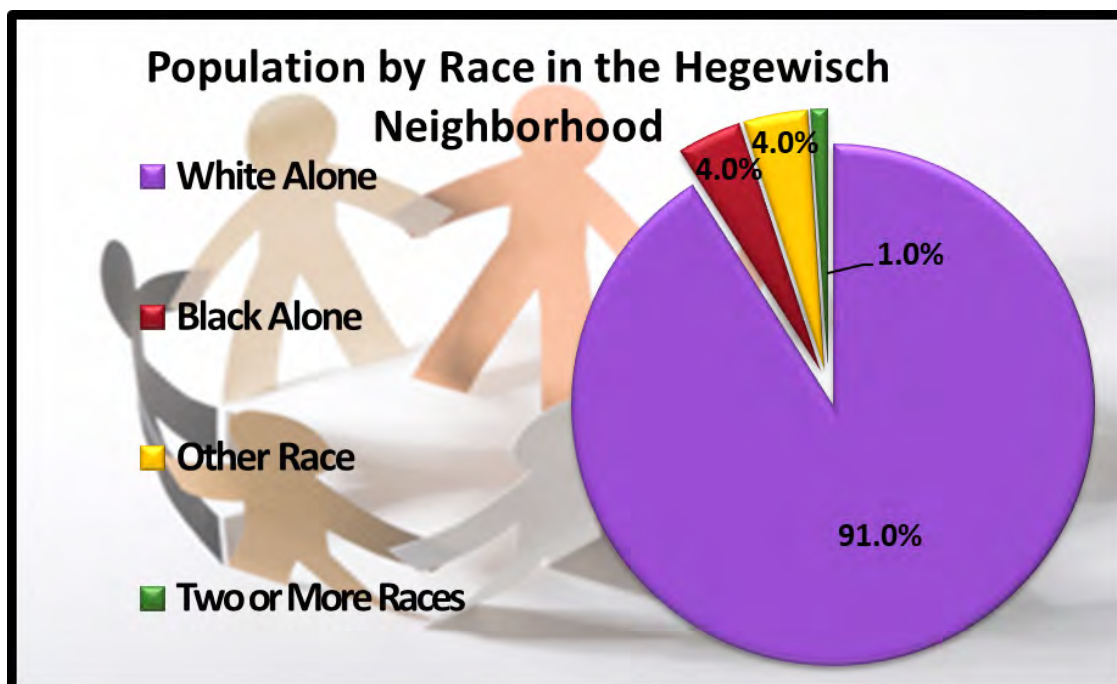
Ward10@cityofchicago.org



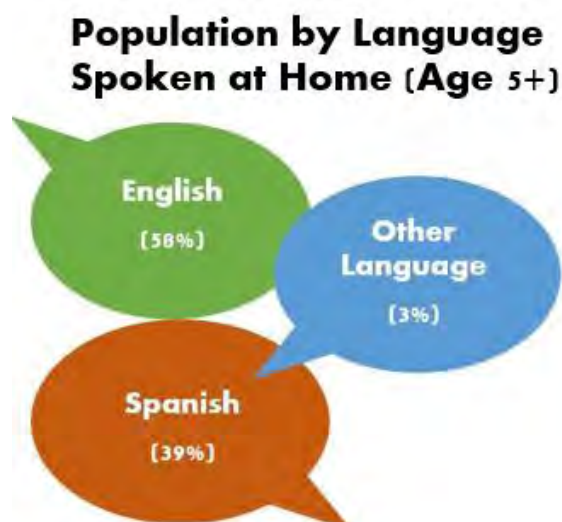
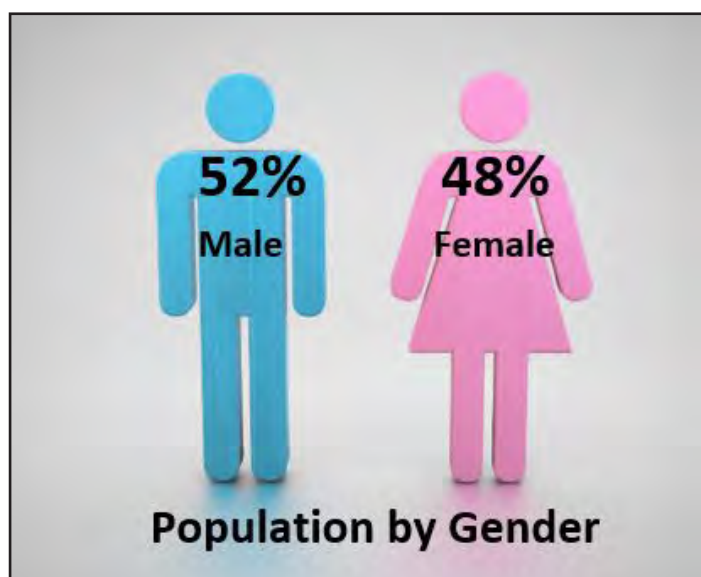
View of Wolf Lake in the Hegewisch neighborhood.

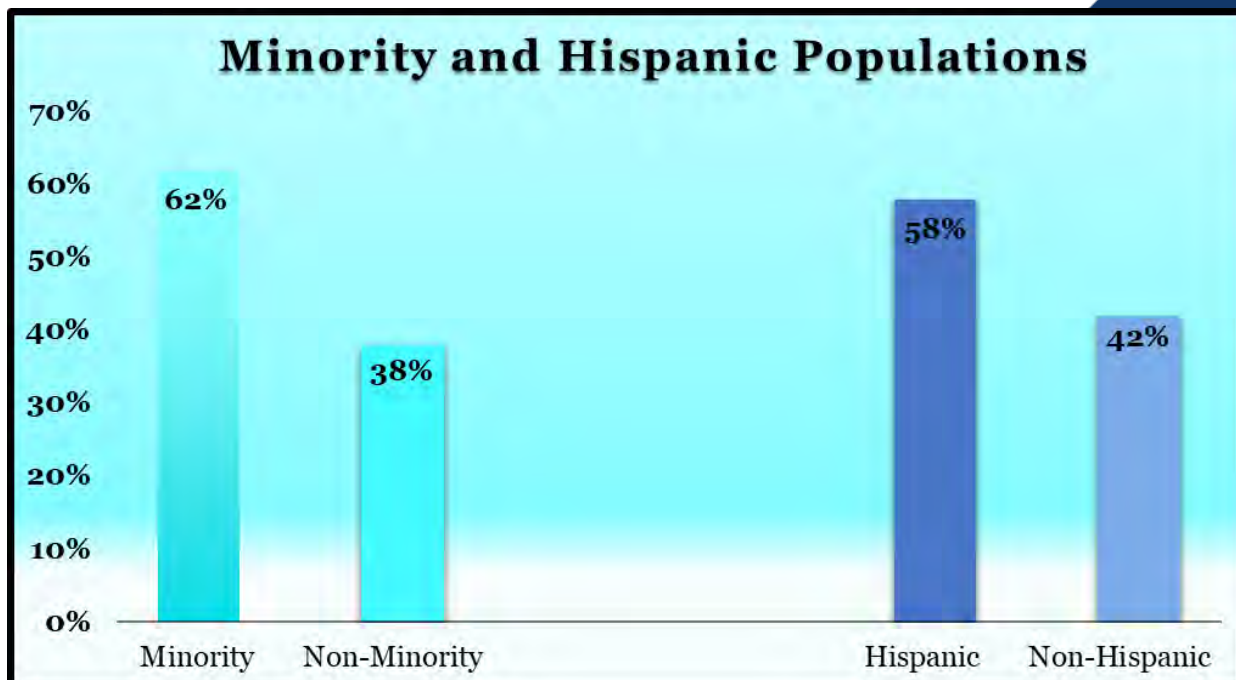
Demographics

The following demographic information was obtained from the 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for the Hegewisch Neighborhood (see *Appendix F for the full report*). The graphics below and on the following pages provide information for the community affected by the Schroud Property site.



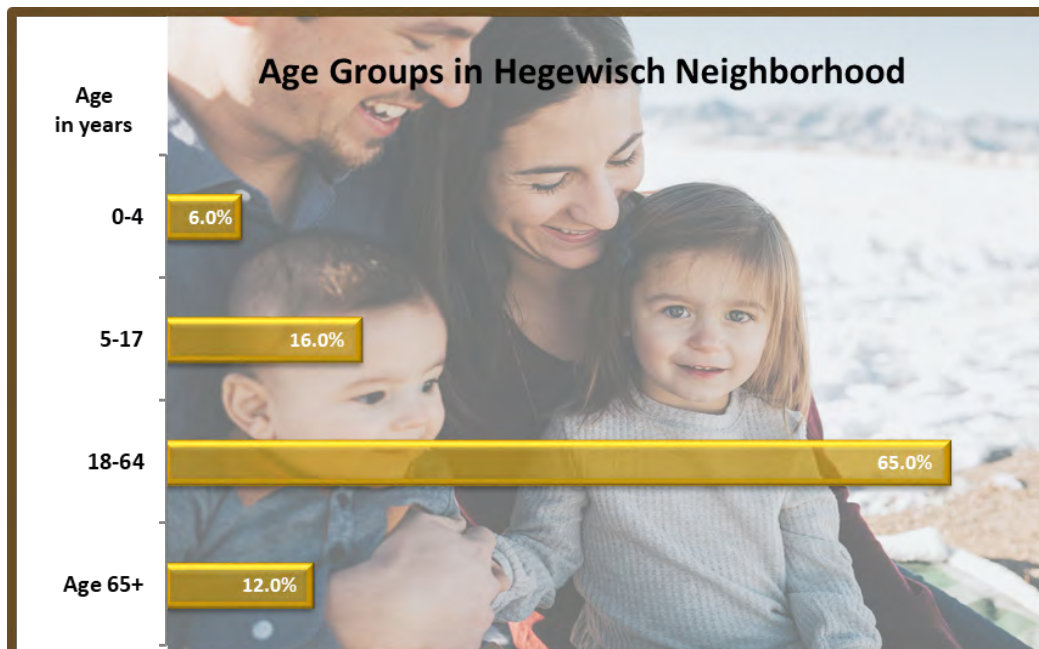
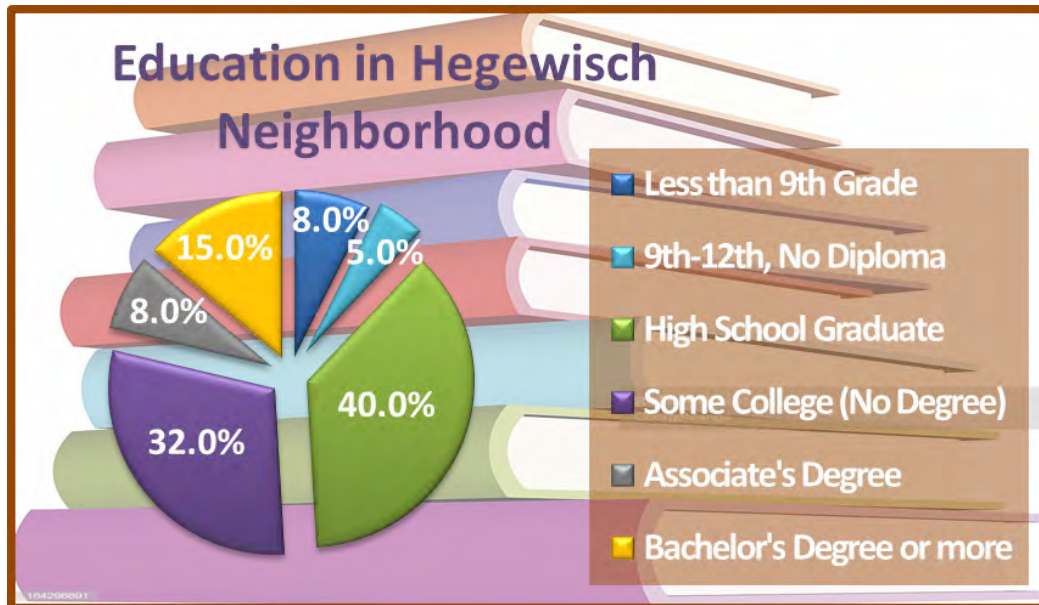
The U.S. Census Bureau considers the Hispanic/Latino designation an ethnicity and not a race. The population self-identified as Hispanic/Latino is also represented within the “Race” demographic.





The U.S. Census Bureau reports that 62% of the Hegewisch population is considered minority. Minorities consist of all but the single-race, non-Hispanic white population. Non-Hispanic whites (42%) (also referred to as Anglo Americans) are European, Middle Eastern and North African Americans as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.





The Site

Background

During the 1990's and early 2000's, the city of Chicago inspected the Schroud Property numerous times for dumping and landfill violations. It was observed that in addition to slag, other construction debris, including wood, clay, concrete and bricks were dumped on the property. Because of the vacant nature of this property, illegal dumping occurred throughout the years and continues to this day.



Unauthorized dumping found on Schroud property.

In 2002, the city of Chicago requested U.S. EPA's assistance to evaluate the site. During the investigation, 11 soil samples were collected throughout the property. Laboratory results showed that lead, chromium and **manganese** were present at levels that exceeded state of Illinois levels for industrial/construction scenarios via the inhalation and ingestion routes. The Illinois Department of Public Health reviewed the data and concluded that more sampling was needed to determine a path forward.

On July 8, 2015, Illinois EPA conducted a **preliminary assessment** for the site and based on its findings, recommended that a **site inspection** be completed to evaluate contamination onsite as well as impacts to the wetlands, fisheries and local populations.

In May 2016, Illinois EPA conducted a site inspection of the Schroud Property. At that time, it was easy to access the site via a gravel road located near the northeast corner of the property from 126th Street because there was no fencing and "No Trespassing" signs were not posted. During the site inspection, several all-terrain vehicles (ATV) were observed on the property that generated a large amount of dust. Other evidence of trespassing included the presence of tree houses, beer and liquor bottles, evidence of open burning and illegal dumping of refuse and garbage.

Other federal and state cleanup programs were evaluated but were not pursued because of the lack of a viable, cooperative responsible party to implement an investigation or perform cleanup. U.S. EPA received a letter of support for placing this site on the **National Priorities List**, or **NPL**, from the state of Illinois. The NPL is a list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned waste sites identified for investigation and possible long-term cleanup under Superfund. Sites on the NPL are eligible for federal funding, if needed. In November 2019, the Schroud Property site was added to the NPL.



Concrete barriers and warning signs placed by the City of Chicago on the northeast entrance to the site (October 2019). Please report any damage or vandalism to EPA and the Chicago Department of Public Health at 312-747-9675.

What Are the Risks at the Site?

Soil and waste at the property and in nearby Indian Creek are contaminated with lead, chromium and other inorganic compounds. See Appendix A for more information on the contaminants.



Indian Creek in foreground, with slag piles at the site in background (October 2019).

What Is the Current Site Status?

The site is private property and public use is considered trespassing. The city of Chicago recently placed barriers and warning signs around parts of the site to discourage access.

What Are the Next Steps?

The next steps at this site include an investigation and study to evaluate the nature and extent of contamination at the site and assess potential threats to human health and the environment. This stage of the process also includes evaluation of the potential performance and cost of the treatment options identified for a site.

Appendix A

Glossary – Initials – Acronyms

Action Memorandum. The primary decision document selecting a removal response. It:

- determines the need for a CERCLA removal action,
- authorizes the removal action,
- identifies the action and cleanup levels (if applicable) and
- explains the rationale for the removal response.

Administrative Record. The body of documents that forms the basis for the selection of a particular response at a site. For example, the Administrative Record for remedy selection includes all documents that were considered or relied upon to select the remedy through the record of decision.

Air Emissions. The release or discharge of a pollutant into the air.

CERCLA. See Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

Chromium. Chromium is a naturally occurring element found in rocks, animals, plants, and soil. It can exist in several different forms. Depending on the form it takes, it can be a liquid, solid, or gas. The most common forms are chromium(0), chromium(III), and chromium(VI). No taste or odor is associated with chromium compounds. The metal chromium, which is the chromium(0) form, is used for making steel. Chromium(VI) and chromium(III) are used for chrome plating, dyes and pigments, leather tanning, and wood preserving. More information can be found on the following website: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=61&tid=17.

CIC. See Community Involvement Coordinator.

CIP. See Community Involvement Plan.

Cleanup. Actions taken to deal with a release or threat of release of a hazardous substance that could affect humans and/or the environment. The term “cleanup” is sometimes used interchangeably with the terms “remedial action,” “remediation,” “removal action,” “response action,” or “corrective action.”

Community Engagement. The process of involving communities in all phases of the cleanup process. Communities are asked to provide input on how the cleanup will be conducted and how it may affect community plans and goals. See also Community Involvement.

Community Involvement. The term used by U.S. EPA to identify its process for engaging in dialogue and collaboration with communities affected by Superfund site. U.S. EPA’s community involvement approach is founded in the belief that people have a right to know what the Agency is doing in their community and to have a say in it. Its purpose is to give people the opportunity to become involved in the Agency’s activities and to help shape the decisions that are made.

Community Involvement Coordinator. The U.S. EPA official whose lead responsibility is to involve and inform the public about the Superfund process and response actions in accordance with the interactive community involvement requirements set forth in the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.

Community Involvement Plan. A plan that outlines specific community involvement activities that occur during the investigation and cleanup at the site. The CIP outlines how U.S. EPA will keep the public informed of work at the site and the ways in which residents can review and comment on decisions that may affect the final actions at the site. The document is available in the site's information repository maintained by U.S. EPA. The CIP may be modified as necessary to respond to changes in community concerns, information needs and activities.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. A federal law passed in 1980 and modified in 1986 by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. Commonly known as Superfund, CERCLA is intended to protect people's health and the environment by investigating and cleaning up abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste site. Under the program, U.S. EPA can either:

- Pay for site cleanup when parties responsible for the contamination cannot be located or are unwilling or unable to do the work; or
- Take legal action to force parties responsible for site contamination to clean up the site or pay back the federal government for the cost of the cleanup.

Consent Decree. A legal document that formalizes an agreement reached between U.S. EPA and parties considered potentially responsible for contamination, called PRPs, where PRPs will perform all or part of a Superfund site cleanup. The consent decree describes actions that PRPs are required to perform, the costs incurred by the government that the PRPs will reimburse, as well as the roles, responsibilities and enforcement options that the government may exercise in the event of noncompliance by the PRPs. A consent decree is subject to a public comment period.

Contaminant(s). Any physical, chemical, biological or radiological substance or matter that has an adverse effect on air, water or soil.

Contamination. Introduction into water, air and soil of microorganisms, chemicals, toxic substances, wastes or wastewater in a concentration that makes the medium unfit for its next intended use. Also applies to surfaces of objects, buildings and various household use products.

EJ. See Environmental Justice.

Emergency Removals. Require an immediate response to releases or threatened releases to the environment and are initiated within hours or days of the determination that the removal action is appropriate. Typical emergency removals address immediate threats, such as fires, explosions, toxic spills, or imminent contamination of a water supply. Because an emergency removal can begin within hours or days of the determination that a removal is appropriate, there is little or no time for planning and relatively few procedural and community involvement requirements. Instead, the focus is on communications: quickly disseminating information to warn of the potential threats, advising community members about how to protect themselves and explaining the protective measures U.S. EPA is taking.

Emergency Response. If a site poses an immediate threat to the community's health or the environment, the U.S. EPA under the authority of CERCLA will step in to stop the threat. Emergency responses can sometimes be expanded to eliminate the need for later long-term action.

Environmental Justice. The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Feasibility Study. The feasibility study is an analysis of the practicality of a proposal and evaluates alternatives and costs for their effectiveness in protecting human health and the environment.

FS. See Feasibility Study.

Hazardous Substance(s). Any material that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Typical hazardous substances are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive or chemically reactive. Any substance designated by U.S. EPA to be reported if a designated quantity of the substance is spilled in the waters of the United States or is otherwise released into the environment.

Hazardous Waste. Byproducts that can pose a substantial or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly managed. Hazardous wastes usually possess at least one of four characteristics (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity or toxicity) or appear on special U.S. EPA lists.

Information Repository. A file containing current information, technical reports and reference documents regarding a site. The information repository usually is located in a public building convenient for local residents such as a public school, town hall or library.

Lead. Lead is a naturally occurring bluish-gray metal found in small amounts in the earth's crust. Lead can be found in all parts of our environment. Much of it comes from human activities including burning fossil fuels, mining, and manufacturing. Lead has many different uses. It is used in the production of batteries, ammunition, metal products (solder and pipes), and devices to shield X-rays. Because of health concerns, lead from paints and ceramic products, caulking, and pipe solder has been dramatically reduced in recent years. The use of lead as an additive to gasoline was banned in 1996 in the United States. Exposure to lead can happen from breathing workplace air or dust, eating contaminated foods, or drinking contaminated water. Children can be exposed from eating lead-based paint chips or playing in contaminated soil. Lead can damage the nervous system, kidneys, and reproductive system. More information can be found on the following website: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts13.pdf.

Manganese. Manganese is a trace element and consuming small amounts from food or water is needed to stay healthy. Exposure to excess levels of manganese may occur from breathing air, particularly where manganese is used in manufacturing, and/or from drinking water and eating food. At high levels, it can cause damage to the brain. More information can be found on the following website: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts151.pdf.

National Priorities List. U.S. EPA's list of serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste site identified for possible long-term cleanup under Superfund. The list is based primarily on the score a site receives from the Hazard Ranking System. U.S. EPA is required to update the National Priorities List at least once a year.

Non-Time-Critical Removals. This type of removal is undertaken when U.S. EPA determines that a removal action is appropriate and the situation allows for a planning period of at least six months before on-site activities must begin. Because non-time-critical sites do not present an immediate threat to public health or safety, more time is available to thoroughly assess potential threats and evaluate cleanup alternatives.

NPL. See National Priorities List.

On-Scene Coordinator. The U.S. EPA staff responsible for directing or overseeing responses to oil spills and hazardous substance releases reported to the federal government. OSCs coordinate all federal efforts with, and provide support and information to, state, regional and local agencies.

OSC. See On-Scene Coordinator.

PA. See Preliminary Assessment.

Preliminary Assessment. The process of gathering information about site conditions to evaluate whether the site poses a threat to the community's health or the environment, and whether further investigating is needed.

Proposed Plan. A plan for a site cleanup that is available to the public for comment.

Public Comment Period(s). A formal opportunity for community members to review and contribute written comments on various U.S. EPA documents or actions.

Public Meeting(s). Formal public sessions that are characterized by a presentation to the public followed by a question-and-answer session. Formal public meetings may involve the use of a court reporter and the issuance of transcripts. Formal public meetings are required only for the proposed plan and Record of Decision amendments.

RD. See Remedial Design.

Record of Decision. A ROD is a legal, technical and public document that explains which cleanup alternative will be used at a Superfund NPL site. The ROD is based on information and technical analysis generated during the remedial investigation and feasibility study and consideration of public comments and community concerns.

Remedial Design. A study designed to collect the data necessary to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a site.

Remedial Investigation. The remedial investigation is a study designed to collect the data necessary to determine the nature and extent of contamination at a site.

Remedial Project Manager. The EPA or state official responsible for overseeing on-site remedial action.

Removal Action. Short-term immediate action taken to address releases of hazardous substances that require an expedited response.

Removal Action Levels. 1. Numeric levels for individual substances, which apply generally across most sites, and 2. Site-specific levels which are determined on a case-by-case basis, using a more detailed analysis at a site.

Removal Assessment. The collection of site characteristics to determine whether or not a removal must be performed.

Removal Management Levels. Values used by U.S. EPA to help determine if any future actions may be needed. A determination that a sample result is higher than a RML by itself does not imply that adverse health effects will occur.

Removal Negotiations. Discussions between U.S. EPA and the potentially responsible parties (PRPs) on the liability for and conduct of a removal.

Removal Response Action. A type of cleanup response that is done under the authority of CERCLA that involves either a short- or long-term action to remove contamination (or the threat posed by contamination). Examples of a removal response action include digging up and removing soil contaminated with high levels of lead. Containing the contamination through means such as covering contaminated soil to prevent it from continuing to pose a risk or treating the waste on site.

RI. See Remedial Investigation.

RMLs. See Removal Management Levels.

ROD. See Record of Decision.

RPM. See Remedial Project Manager.

SARA. See Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act.

SI. See Site Inspection.

Site Inspection. Typically following a preliminary assessment, air water and soil at the site are tested to determine what hazardous substances are present, whether they are being released into the environment and whether they pose a threat to human health or the environment. These activities are collectively referred to as "site inspection."

Slag. A stony waste matter separated from metals by withdrawing or purifying the ore.

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act. Modifications to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, enacted on October 17, 1986.

Superfund. The program operated under the legislative authority of CERCLA that funds and carries out U.S. EPA solid waste emergency and long-term removal and remedial activities. These activities include establishing the National Priorities List, investigating site for inclusion on the list, determining their priority and conducting and/or supervising cleanup and other remedial actions.

TAG. See Technical Assistance Grant.

TASC. See Technical Assistance Services for Communities.

Technical Assistance Grant. This grant provides money for activities that help communities participate in decision making at eligible Superfund sites.

Technical Assistance Services for Communities. This program supplies communities with technical help so they can better understand the science, regulations and policies of environmental issues and EPA actions.

Time Critical Removal Action. A kind of cleanup that is done under CERCLA when there is a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance into the environment or a release or threatened risk of a pollutant or contaminant that may present an imminent and substantial danger to humans or the environment. Time critical removal actions are those removal actions where on-site activities must be initiated within six months of the determination. Examples include removal of drums or small volumes of contaminated soil and stabilization of lagoons.

Appendix B

List of Contacts (Information is current as of August 2020)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Officials



Lauren Bumba

Remedial Project Manager
Superfund Division, SR-6J
U.S. EPA
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-4844 or 800-621-8431 x 64844
bumba.lauren@epa.gov

Heriberto León

Community Involvement Coordinator
Superfund Division RE-19J
U.S. EPA
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-6163 or 800-621-8431 x 66163
leon.heriberto@epa.gov

Federal Elected Officials

Richard Durbin

Senator
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-2152
<https://www.durbin.senate.gov>

Chicago Office

230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 2892
Chicago, IL 60604
312-353-4952

Tammy Duckworth

Senator
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-2854
<https://www.duckworth.senate.gov>

Chicago Office

230 S. Dearborn St., Suite 3900
Chicago, IL 60604
312-886-3506

Robin Kelly

U.S. Representative
1239 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-0773
<https://robinkelly.house.gov>

Matteson Office

600 Holiday Plaza Dr., Suite 505
Matteson, IL 60443
708-679-0078

State Elected Officials

J.B. Pritzker

Governor

James R. Thompson Center
100 W Randolph St., 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601
312-814-2121
<https://www2.illinois.gov/>

Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (District 17)

State Senator

627 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
217-782-3201
www.senatorelgiesims.com

Chicago Office

8233 S. Princeton
Chicago, IL 60620
773-933-7715

Chicago Officials

Lori Lightfoot

Mayor

121 N. LaSalle St.
Chicago City Hall 4th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602

Anna M. Valencia

City Clerk

121 N. LaSalle St.
Room 107
Chicago, IL 60602
312-742-5375

Susan Sadlowski Garza

10th Ward Alderwoman

10500 S. Ewing Ave., 1st Floor
Chicago, IL 60617
773-768-8138
Ward10@cityofchicago.org

Marcus C. Evans, Jr. (District 33)

State Representative

268-S Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
217-782-8272
www.repevans.com

District Office

8539 S. Cottage Grove Ave., Suite B
Chicago, IL 60619
773-783-8492

Chicago Police 4th District**Robert A Rubio**

Commander

2255 E. 103rd St.
Chicago, IL 60617
312-747-8205
caps.004district@chicagopolice.org

Chicago Fire Department Engine 97**José A. Santiago**

Fire Chief

13359 S. Burley Ave.
Chicago, IL 60633
773-646-0612

Chicago Fire Department Engine 104**José A. Santiago**

Fire Chief

11641 S. Avenue O
Chicago, IL 60633
708-891-9865

Alicia Tate-Nadeau

Executive Director
Office of Emergency Management and
Communications
121 N. LaSalle St.
City Hall
Chicago, IL 60602
312-746-9111

Dr. Allison Arwady, MD, MPH

Commissioner
Department of Public Health
333 S. State St.
Room 200
Chicago, IL 60604
312-747-9884

Health Agencies/Organizations

**Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry Region 5**

77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Room 433, M/S 4J
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 312-886-0840
www.atsdr.cdc.gov/dro/r5.html

69 W. Washington St., 35th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
312-814-5278

**City of Chicago Department of
Public Health**

333 S. State St., Suite 200
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 311 (within Chicago), 312-744-5000
www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph.html

Illinois Department of Public Health

122 S. Michigan Ave., 7th and 20th Floors
Chicago, IL 60603
312-814-2793

Media

The following newspapers, radio and television stations were the most widely mentioned by interviewees as resources they use.

Newspapers

**Chicago Tribune
Daily Southtown**

160 N. Stetson Ave.
Chicago, IL 60601
312-222-3232
www.chicagotribune.com

The Hegewisch Times

13100 S. Manistee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60633
www.hegtimes.com/

Chicago Sun-Times

30 N. Racine Ave.
3rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60607
312-321-3000
<https://chicago.suntimes.com/>

**Northwest Indiana Times
Hammond Times**

601 W. 45th Ave.
Munster, IN 46321
219-933-3200
www.nwitimes.com

Radio

WBBM Newsradio 780 AM

180 N. Stetson, Suite 1100
Chicago, IL 60601
312-297-7800
<https://wbbm780.radio.com/>

WJOB - 1230 AM

7150 Indianapolis Blvd.
Hammond, IN 46324
219-844-1230
www.wjob1230.com/

WBEZ - 91.5 FM

South Side Bureau
322 E. 75th St.
Chicago, IL 60619
312-893-2918
www.wbez.org

WXRT - 93.1 FM

180 N. Stetson, Suite 100
Chicago, IL 60601
312-861-9978
<https://wxrt.radio.com/>

WVIV 93.5 (Spanish)

541 N. Fairbanks Ct.
Chicago, IL 60611
312-670-1000
<https://www.univision.com/radio/chicago-wviv-fm>

WEBG 95.5 FM

233 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60601
312-540-2000
<https://big955chicago.iheart.com/>

WDRV 97.1 FM

875 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1510
Chicago, IL 60611
312-274-9710
<https://www.wdrv.com/>

WSUN - 99.5 FM

180 N. Stetson, Suite 100
Chicago, IL 60601
312-649-0099
<https://us99.radio.com/>

WKQX - 101.1 FM

455 N. Cityfront Plaza Dr., 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60611
312-245-1200
www.101wkqx.com

WVAZ - 102.7 FM

V103
233 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2800
Chicago, IL 60601
312-540-2000
<https://v103.iheart.com/>

KISS FM – 103.5

103.5 Kiss FM
233 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2800
Chicago, IL 60601
312-540-2000
<https://1035kissfm.iheart.com/>

Television

WBBM-TV CBS 2

22 W. Washington St.
Chicago, IL 60602
312-899-2222
<https://chicago.cbslocal.com/>

WMAQ-TV NBC 5

454 N. Columbus Dr.
Chicago, IL 60611
312-836-5555
www.nbcchicago.com/

WLS-TV ABC 7

190 N. State St.
Chicago, IL 60601
312-750-7777
www.abclocal.go.com/wls/index/

WGN-TV 9

2501 W. Bradley Place
Chicago, IL 60618
773-528-2311
www.wgntv.com

WTTW-TV 11

5400 N. St. Louis Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625
773-583-5000
www.wttw.com

WFLD-TV FOX 32

205 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60601
773-528-2311
www.myfoxchicago.com/

WSNS-TV - Telemundo Chicago

454 N. Columbus Dr.
Chicago, IL 60611
312-836-3110
www.telemundochicago.com/

WGBO-TV – Univision Chicago

541 N. Fairbanks Ct.
Chicago, IL 60611
312-670-1000
www.univision.com/

**Cable News Network
(CNN)**

500 W. 33rd St.
New York, NY 10001
www.cnn.com

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Appendix C

Information Repository, Administrative Record, Websites and Meeting Locations

Local Information Repository



Library hours may be different than posted due to COVID-19.

Regular Library Hours

Monday	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday	12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday	10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Thursday	12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

Email: Hegewisch@chipublib.org

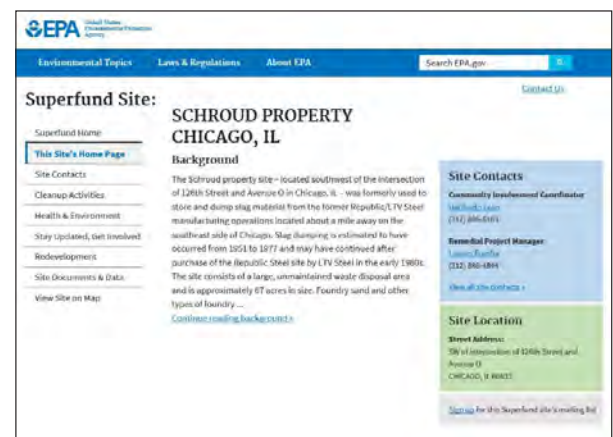
Official Information Repository

U.S. EPA Region 5 Superfund Records Center

77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Room 711, 7th Floor
Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building
Chicago, IL 60604

U.S. EPA Site Web Page

www.epa.gov/superfund/schroud-property



Possible Meeting Locations

George Washington High School

3535 E. 114th St.
Chicago, IL 60617
773-535-5725
<https://www.gwashingtonhs.org/>

Hegewisch Branch, Chicago Public Library

3048 E. 130th St.
Chicago, IL 60633
312-747-0046
<https://www.chipublib.org/locations/35/>

Appendix C

Lebanon Lutheran Church

13100 S. Manistee Ave.
Chicago, IL 60633
773-646-1747
<http://lebanonlutheran.com/>

Mann Park Field House

3035 E. 130th St.
Chicago, IL 60633
773-646-0265
<https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/mann-james-park>

Clay Elementary School

13231 S. Burley Ave.

Chicago, IL 60633

773-535-5600

<http://clay.cps.edu/>

St. Florian Catholic Church

13145 S. Houston Ave.

Chicago, IL 60633

773-646-1071

<http://florian.hegewisch.net/>

UAW Local 551 Union Hall

13550 S. Torrence Ave.

Chicago, IL 60633

773-646-1472

<https://www.facebook.com/uawlocal551/>

Virgil Grissom Elementary School

12810 S. Escanaba Ave.

Chicago, IL 60633

773-535-5380

<http://grissom.cps.edu/>

Appendix D

Get Involved and Get Support

U.S. EPA Community Resources

Technical Assistance Needs Assessments (TANA)

The Technical Assistance Needs Assessment (TANA) is a site-specific process that identifies whether a community requires additional support from EPA to understand technical information and to enable meaningful community involvement in the Superfund decision-making process. Through discussions with community members, EPA identifies how the community is receiving site-related information; what types of information is being received; whether the community needs additional assistance; what types of assistance would benefit the community; and whether there are local organizations interested or involved in site-related issues and capable of acting as an appropriate conduit for technical assistance services. The TANA process produces a blueprint for a coordinated effort to meet a community's needs for additional technical assistance while minimizing the overlap of services provided by EPA site staff, external partners, and EPA grants and contracts.

For more information on TANA, visit <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-needs-assessments-tanas>

Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) Program

The national Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program provides independent assistance through an EPA contract to help communities better understand the science, regulations and policies of environmental issues and EPA actions. Under the TASC contract, a contractor provides scientists, engineers and other professionals to review and explain information to communities. The services are determined on a project-specific basis and provided at no cost to communities. This assistance supports community efforts to get more involved and work productively with EPA to address environmental issues.

TASC services can include information assistance and expertise, community education, information assistance needs evaluation and plan development, and assistance to help community members work together to participate effectively in environmental decision-making.

The TASC program benefits communities by explaining technical findings and answering community questions, helping them understand complex environmental issues, and supporting their active roles in protecting healthy communities and advancing environmental protection. The TASC program can also provide opportunities for environmental education, bring diverse groups together and help them get more involved, and offer training and support environmental employment opportunities through the Superfund Job Training Initiative.

For more information on the TASC program, visit <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program>

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program

A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) helps communities participate in Superfund cleanup decision-making. It provides funding to community groups to contract their own technical advisor to interpret and explain technical reports, site conditions, and EPA's proposed cleanup proposals and decisions. An initial grant up to \$50,000 is available to qualified community groups.

Congress made public involvement in decision-making an important part of the Superfund process when the program was established by the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)** of 1980. Congress wanted to ensure that the people whose lives were affected by abandoned **hazardous wastes** would have a say in the actions taken to clean up sites. The role of community members in the Superfund process was further strengthened in the **Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act** of 1986 (**SARA**). With SARA, Congress created EPA's TAG program. TAGs are available at Superfund sites on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) or proposed for listing on the NPL, and for which a response action has begun. The NPL is a list of the most hazardous waste sites nationwide.

For more information on the TAG program, visit <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program>

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Resources

A Community Advisory Group (CAG) is made up of representatives of diverse community interests. A CAG is designed to serve as the focal point for the exchange of information among the local community and EPA, the State regulatory agency, and other pertinent Federal agencies involved in cleanup of the Superfund site. Its purpose is to provide a public forum for community members to present and discuss their needs and concerns related to the Superfund decision-making process. A CAG can assist EPA in making better decisions on how to clean up a site. It offers EPA a unique opportunity to hear-and seriously consider-community preferences for site cleanup and remediation. However, the existence of a CAG does not eliminate the need for the Agency to keep the community informed about plans and decisions throughout the Superfund process.

For more information on CAGs, visit <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-advisory-groups>

Superfund Job Training Initiative (Super JTI)

SuperJTI is a job readiness program that provides training and employment opportunities for people living in communities affected by Superfund sites. Many of these areas are **Environmental Justice (EJ)** communities – historically under-represented minority and low-income neighborhoods and areas burdened with significant environmental challenges. EPA's goal is to help these communities develop job opportunities that remain long after a Superfund site has been cleaned up.

The Superfund program uses its experience in working with communities to create partnerships with local businesses, universities, labor unions, community and social service organizations, and other federal agencies to address local workforce issues. EPA's goal is to help communities

develop job opportunities and partnerships that remain long after a Superfund site is cleaned up. Super JTI combines classroom instruction and hands-on work experience, teaching trainees the basic technical skills necessary to work at Superfund sites and other construction or technically related jobs in the community. Such jobs include safely cleaning up lead and asbestos, construction, and equipment operation. Trainees also learn the basic life skills needed to remain employable.

For more information on Super JTI, visit <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-job-training-initiative>

Organizations in the Hegewisch Neighborhood

Alliance of the Southeast

9204 S. Commercial Ave., Suite 301
Chicago, IL 60617
773-221-8908
www.asechicago.org/

CAPS – Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy

Public Safety Headquarters Building
3510 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60653
<https://home.chicagopolice.org/office-of-community-policing/how-caps-works/>

Friends of the Parks

17 N. State St.
Chicago, IL 60602
312-857-2757
www.fotp.org

Hegewisch Babe Ruth League

<https://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=hegewischbaseball>

Hegewisch Business Association

13256 S. Baltimore Ave.
Chicago, IL 60633

Hegewisch Chamber of Commerce

13330 S. Baltimore Ave.
Chicago, IL 60633
773-646-6880
<https://www.facebook.com/Hegewisch-Chamber-of-Commerce-351017578401030/>

Southeast Environmental Task Force

13300 S. Baltimore Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
773- 646-0436
<http://setaskforce.org/>

Southeast Sportsmen's Club (may be permanently closed)

13139 S. Avenue M
Chicago, IL 60633
773-646-9707

Vets Park Improvement Association

10004 S. Exchange Ave.
Chicago, IL 60617

Wolf Lake Rod and Gun Club

13127 S. Avenue M
Chicago, IL 60633
773-646-0281

Facebook

Alderwoman Susan Sadlowski Garza

www.facebook.com/ssadlowskigarza

Calumet Outdoors

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1115529588474265/>

Eastside Neighborhood Association

www.facebook.com/EastsideNA/

Hegewisch Community Page

www.facebook.com/groups/HEGEWISCH/

Lebanon Lutheran Church

<https://www.facebook.com/lebanonlutheranchicago/>

Southeast Environmental Task Force

<https://www.facebook.com/setaskforce/>

Additional Online Sources

Block Club

www.blockclubchicago.org/

Google

www.google.com

New York Times

www.nytimes.com/

NPR

www.npr.org/

Sierra Club

www.sierraclub.org/illinois/chicago/

The Atlantic

www.theatlantic.com/

Wall Street Journal

www.wsj.com/

YouTube

www.youtube.com/

Appendix E

Community Engagement and the Superfund Process



Superfund is an environmental cleanup program enabled by a federal law enacted in 1980 known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, or CERCLA, also called Superfund. In 1986, another law, the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act, or SARA, reauthorized CERCLA to continue Superfund cleanup activities. The CERCLA law gives U.S. EPA the authority to require those parties responsible for creating hazardous waste sites to clean up those sites or to reimburse the government if U.S. EPA cleans up the sites. U.S. EPA compels responsible parties to clean up hazardous waste sites through administrative orders, **consent decrees** and other legal settlements. U.S. EPA is authorized to enforce the Superfund laws within Indian reservations, in all 50 states and in U.S. territories. Superfund site identification, monitoring and response activities are coordinated with state, tribal and territorial environmental protection or waste management agencies.

There are several steps involved in cleaning up a contaminated site. Once U.S. EPA has been made aware of a contaminated site from individual citizens, local, tribal or state agencies or others, U.S. EPA follows a step-by-step process (*see the next page of this Appendix*) to determine the best way to clean up the site and protect human health and the environment.

If the site poses an immediate threat to public health or the environment, U.S. EPA can intervene with an **emergency response** action. The goal of U.S. EPA's Emergency Response and Removal Program is to protect the public and the environment from immediate threats posed by the release or discharge of **hazardous substances**. The following pages present diagrams showing Community Involvement in the Removal and Remedial processes.

The Superfund program encourages active dialogue between communities affected by the release of hazardous substances and all of the agencies responsible for carrying out or overseeing clean-up actions. U.S. EPA considers community involvement to be an important part of the Superfund program and opportunities for community involvement occur throughout the process. At each step in the process, there are opportunities for various levels of community involvement (*see the following page for more details*).

Visit these U.S. EPA websites for more information on the Superfund process.

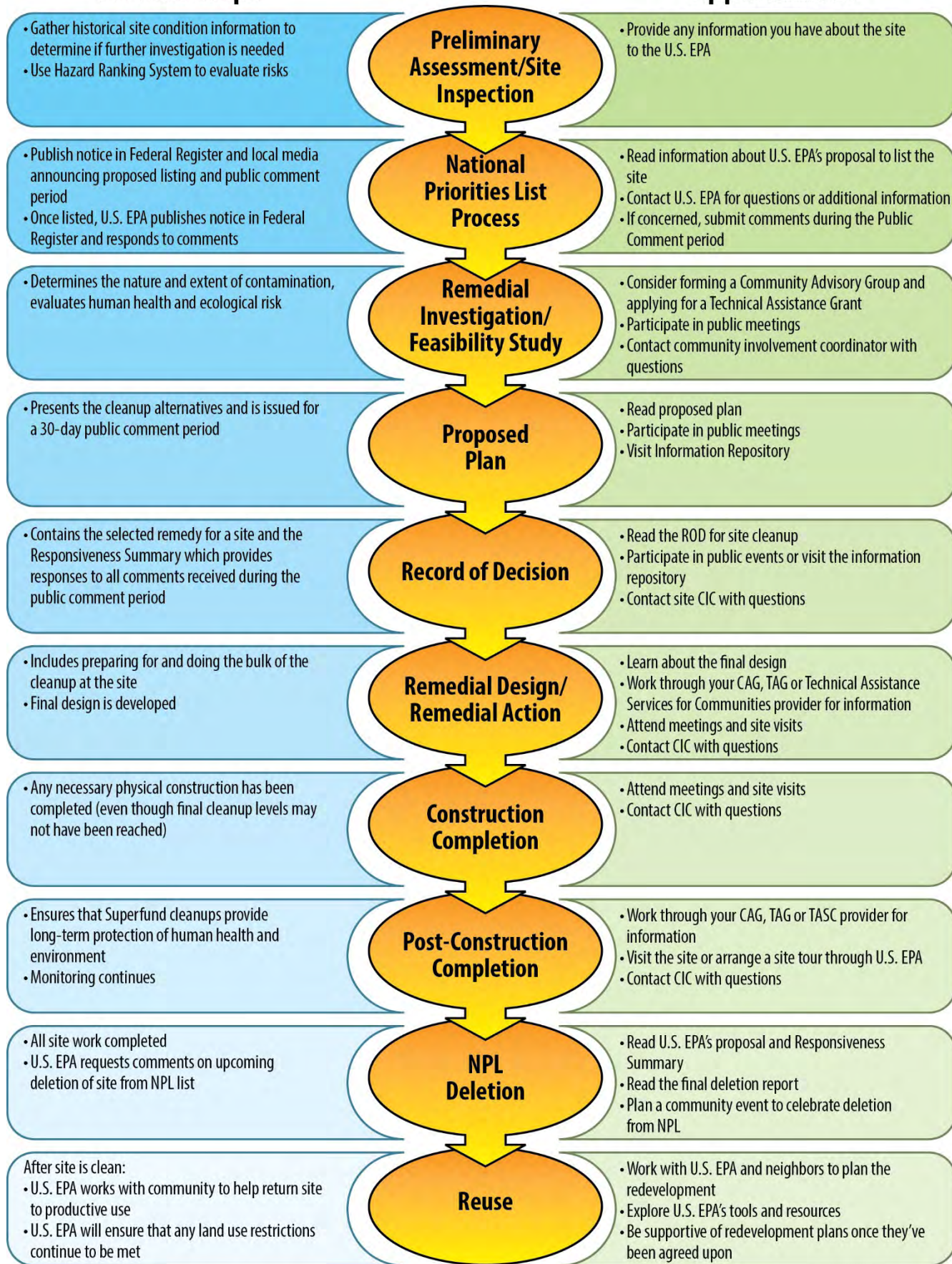
Superfund: www.epa.gov/superfund

Cleanup Process: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/cleaning-superfund-sites>

Community Involvement: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement>

Superfund Process Steps

Community Involvement Opportunities



Appendix F

American Community Survey Demographics Report



EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report



Location: User-specified polygonal location

Ring (buffer): 0-miles radius

Description: Hegewisch Neighborhood

Summary of ACS Estimates		2013 - 2017	
Population		8,913	
Population Density (per sq. mile)		8,113	
Minority Population		5,522	
% Minority		62%	
Households		3,268	
Housing Units		3,711	
Housing Units Built Before 1950		1,637	
Per Capita Income		27,641	
Land Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		1.10	
% Land Area		92%	
Water Area (sq. miles) (Source: SF1)		0.10	
% Water Area		8%	

	2013 - 2017 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population by Race			
Total	8,913	100%	947
Population Reporting One Race	8,861	99%	1,709
White	8,095	91%	956
Black	354	4%	534
American Indian	15	0%	27
Asian	31	0%	49
Pacific Islander	0	0%	11
Some Other Race	365	4%	132
Population Reporting Two or More Races	52	1%	56
Total Hispanic Population	5,151	58%	894
Total Non-Hispanic Population	3,762		
White Alone	3,390	38%	392
Black Alone	353	4%	536
American Indian Alone	0	0%	11
Non-Hispanic Asian Alone	0	0%	11
Pacific Islander Alone	0	0%	11
Other Race Alone	0	0%	11
Two or More Races Alone	18	0%	45
Population by Sex			
Male	4,672	52%	566
Female	4,241	48%	441
Population by Age			
Age 0-4	578	6%	157
Age 0-17	1,999	22%	259
Age 18+	6,914	78%	427
Age 65+	1,112	12%	145

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2013 - 2017.



EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report



Location: User-specified polygonal location

Ring (buffer): 0-miles radius

Description:

	2013 - 2017 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population 25+ by Educational Attainment			
Total	6,211	100%	622
Less than 9th Grade	515	8%	158
9th - 12th Grade, No Diploma	327	5%	138
High School Graduate	2,471	40%	310
Some College, No Degree	1,960	32%	225
Associate Degree	500	8%	140
Bachelor's Degree or more	938	15%	173
Population Age 5+ Years by Ability to Speak English			
Total	8,335	100%	883
Speak only English	4,812	58%	389
Non-English at Home ¹⁺²⁺³⁺⁴	3,523	42%	686
¹ Speak English "very well"	2,544	31%	499
² Speak English "well"	530	6%	163
³ Speak English "not well"	242	3%	200
⁴ Speak English "not at all"	207	2%	145
³⁺⁴ Speak English "less than well"	450	5%	247
²⁺³⁺⁴ Speak English "less than very well"	979	12%	249
Linguistically Isolated Households*			
Total	121	100%	57
Speak Spanish	106	88%	56
Speak Other Indo-European Languages	15	12%	25
Speak Asian-Pacific Island Languages	0	0%	11
Speak Other Languages	0	0%	11
Households by Household Income			
Household Income Base	3,268	100%	190
< \$15,000	517	16%	122
\$15,000 - \$25,000	268	8%	75
\$25,000 - \$50,000	774	24%	127
\$50,000 - \$75,000	630	19%	134
\$75,000 +	1,079	33%	149
Occupied Housing Units by Tenure			
Total	3,268	100%	190
Owner Occupied	2,308	71%	151
Renter Occupied	960	29%	161
Employed Population Age 16+ Years			
Total	7,183	100%	698
In Labor Force	4,446	62%	559
Civilian Unemployed in Labor Force	371	5%	129
Not In Labor Force	2,737	38%	256

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of anyrace.

N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS)

*Households in which no one 14 and over speaks English "very well" or speaks English only.



EJSCREEN ACS Summary Report



Location: User-specified polygonal location

Ring (buffer): 0-miles radius

Description:

	2013 - 2017 ACS Estimates	Percent	MOE (±)
Population by Language Spoken at Home*			
Total (persons age 5 and above)	5,454	100%	938
English	3,140	58%	522
Spanish	2,108	39%	945
French	15	0%	20
French Creole	N/A	N/A	N/A
Italian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Portuguese	N/A	N/A	N/A
German	50	1%	86
Yiddish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other West Germanic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scandinavian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greek	N/A	N/A	N/A
Russian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Polish	N/A	N/A	N/A
Serbo-Croatian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Slavic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Armenian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Persian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gujarathi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hindi	N/A	N/A	N/A
Urdu	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indic	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Indo-European	15	0%	20
Chinese	9	0%	22
Japanese	N/A	N/A	N/A
Korean	0	0%	15
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hmong	N/A	N/A	N/A
Thai	N/A	N/A	N/A
Laotian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vietnamese	0	0%	15
Other Asian	0	0%	15
Tagalog	0	0%	15
Other Pacific Island	N/A	N/A	N/A
Navajo	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Native American	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hungarian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arabic	46	1%	107
Hebrew	N/A	N/A	N/A
African	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other and non-specified	0	0%	15
Total Non-English	2,314	42%	1,073

Data Note: Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding. Hispanic population can be of any race.

N/A means not available. **Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2013 - 2017.

*Population by Language Spoken at Home is available at the census tract summary level and up.